UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1991/1/Add.1
6 May 1991

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Working Group on Contemporary Forms
of Slavery
Sixteenth session
29 July - 2 August 1991

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Prepared by the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 13 of resolution 1988/31 of the Sub-Commission

1. Election of officers

1. Rule 23 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that "unless the Commission decides otherwise, its subsidiary organs shall elect their own officers".

2. Adoption of the agenda

2. Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the agenda shall be adopted at the beginning of each session, after the election of officers, on the basis of the provisional agenda. The provisional agenda for the present session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery is contained in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1991/1.

3. It may be noted that the Sub-Commission, by its resolution 1988/31, approved the programme of work of the Working Group for the period 1989-1991. This programme of work (contained in chapter VI of the report of the Working Group on its thirteenth session, E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/32) included three

main themes to be discussed in successive years: prevention of the sale of children, of prostitution of children and of the use of children in pornography (1989); eradication of the exploitation of child labour and of debt bondage (1990); and prevention of traffic in persons and of the exploitation of the prostitution of others (1991). In addition, at each session, the Working Group will review information received on the status and the implementation of conventions on slavery and slavery-like practices, review developments in other fields of contemporary forms of slavery and consider the recommendations adopted at previous sessions. By its resolution 1990/30, the Sub-Commission endorsed the decision of the Working Group to place the question of child soldiers on the agenda of its sixteenth session.

3. Review of information received on the status and the implementation of conventions on slavery and slavery-like practices

4. By its resolution 1991/58 of 6 March 1991, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to invite States parties to the Slavery Convention of 1926, the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery of 1956 and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others of 1949 to submit to the Sub-Commission regular reports on the situation in their countries, as provided for under the conventions and in Economic and Social Council decision 16 (LVI) of 17 May 1974. The Commission invited those eligible States that have not ratified the relevant conventions to consider doing so as soon as possible, or to explain in writing why they feel unable to do so, and invited them to consider providing information regarding their national legislation and practices in this field.

5. Information relating to the status of the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery and of the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others is contained in two notes by the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1991/2 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1991/3).

6. In its resolution 1989/74, the Economic and Social Council reminded States parties to slavery conventions of their obligation to submit to the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Slavery and Discrimination and Protection of Minorities regular reports on the situation in their countries, as provided for under the relevant conventions and under Economic and Social Council decision 16 (LVI).

7. Information received from States upon their compliance with the provisions of the conventions is contained in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1991/4.

8. Upon the recommendation of the Sub-Commission, the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1989/35, requested the Secretary-General to undertake a study of the ways and means by which an effective mechanism may be established for the implementation of the Slavery Convention of 1926, the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery of 1956 and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the

Prostitution of Others of 1949. The Working Group at its fourteenth session had before it the study prepared by the Secretary-General on this question (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/37).

9. In its resolution 1990/63, the Commission on Human Rights welcomed the study prepared by the Secretary-General on ways and means for establishing an effective mechanism for the implementation of the Slavery Conventions (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/37) and encouraged the Sub-Commission, including its Working Group, to continue its debate on this study and to elaborate recommendations on this issue at its forty-second session. In its resolution 1991/58, the Commission on Human Rights once again encouraged the Sub-Commission, including its Working Group, to elaborate recommendations on the ways and means of establishing such a mechanism on the basis of the study prepared by the Secretary-General. The study is therefore available for discussion by the Working Group at its present session.

4. Main theme of the session: Prevention of traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others

10. In its resolution 6 B (XXXI) of 13 September 1978, the Sub-Commission requested the Working Group to follow with interest and to cooperate in the studies on the traffic in persons and on the exploitation of prostitution undertaken by the relevant United Nations organs pursuant to resolution 1 (XXVII) of the Commission on the Status of Women.

11. By its resolution 1980/4, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the application of the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, emphasizing in particular the causes and socio-economic conditions which encourage the development of prostitution. By its resolution 1981/40, the Council requested the Secretary-General to undertake an inquiry among the Governments of Member States and the international organizations concerned on the status of the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session, so that, with full knowledge of the facts, joint measures can be envisaged to put an end to this form of slavery. A report containing all information available to the Secretary-General on the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1982/13 and Add.1) was transmitted to the Working Group on Slavery at its eighth session, in 1982. The document was subsequently submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session.

12. By its resolution 1982/20, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to appoint a special rapporteur to make a synthesis of the surveys and studies on the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others that have been or are being carried out within the agencies in the United Nations system or outside the system, and to propose appropriate measures to prevent and suppress those practices that are contrary to the fundamental rights of human beings. The Special Rapporteur, Mr. J. Fernand-Laurent, submitted his report on the suppression of the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others (E/1983/7 and Corr.1 and 2) to the Economic and Social Council in 1983.

13. The Council, by its resolution 1983/30, recommended that Member States should take account of the report of the Special Rapporteur and draw up, subject to their constitutions and legislation and in consultation with the parties concerned, policies aimed, to the extent possible, at:

(a) Preventing prostitution by moral education and civics training, in and out of school;

(b) Increasing the number of women among the State's personnel having direct contact with the populations concerned;

(c) Eliminating discrimination that ostracizes prostitutes and makes their reabsorption into society more difficult;

(d) Curbing the pornography industry and the trade in pornography and penalizing them very severely when minors are involved;

(e) Punishing all forms of procuring in such a way as to deter it, particularly when it exploits minors;

(f) Facilitating occupational training for and the reabsorption into society of persons rescued from prostitution.

The Council further invited Member States to cooperate closely with one another in the research for missing persons and in the identification of international networks of procurers and, if they are members of the International Criminal Police Organization, to cooperate with that organization, requesting it to make the suppression of the traffic in persons one of its priorities. The Council invited the regional commissions to help Member States and United Nations bodies wishing to organize regional expert meetings, seminars or symposia on the traffic in persons.

14. By the same resolution, the Council requested the Centre for Human Rights to prepare, in liaison with the United Nations agencies and organs concerned and with the competent non-governmental organizations, a study on the legal and social problems of sexual minorities and to submit it as soon as possible to the Sub-Commission. In accordance with Sub-Commission resolution 1987/31, the study on this question prepared by Mr. J. Fernand-Laurent at the invitation of the Secretary-General, was made available to the Sub-Commission at its fortieth session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/31).

15. The General Assembly of the United Nations, by its resolution 38/107 of 16 December 1983, urged Member States to take all appropriate humane measures, including legislation, to combat prostitution, exploitation of the prostitution of others and all forms of traffic in persons. The Assembly appealed to Member States to provide special protection to victims of prostitution through measures including education, social guarantees, employment opportunities for those victims with a view to their rehabilitation. It requested the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women, the regional commissions and other concerned bodies of the United Nations system to devote greater attention to the problem of prostitution and the means for its prevention.

16. By its resolution 1985/25, the Commission on Human Rights recommended that the struggle against procuring be intensified at the national level and, further, that international measures be adopted with the twofold purpose of dismantling the networks which feed prostitution and repatriating the victims of these networks, as well as extending assistance to them. The Commission further recommended that all States concerned should adopt and implement such social and legal measures as are necessary to ensure the orderly and effective reinsertion into society of the victims of prostitution.

17. The Sub-Commission, in its resolution 1988/31, encouraged United Nations institutions, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to examine the possibility of organizing expert meetings on the international standards regarding the prevention of traffic in persons and exploitation of the prostitution of others. The Sub-Commission also requested the Secretary-General to invite the Branch for the Advancement of Women at the United Nations Office in Vienna to send information, contained in the State reports submitted under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which refers to prostitution under article 6 of that Convention, to the Working Group. At its fourteenth session, in 1989, the Working Group had before it the information submitted by the Division for the Advancement of Women (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1989/6).

18. The Sub-Commission, in its resolution 1990/30, recommended that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, when it examines the reports of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, give particular attention to the implementation of the provisions of article 6 of the Convention, with a view to suppressing all forms of traffic in women.

19. The Commission on Human Rights, by its resolutions 1989/35, 1990/63 and 1991/58, invited all Member States to consider the possibility of taking appropriate action for the protection of migrant women against exploitation by prostitution and other slavery-like practices, including the possibility of establishing national bodies to achieve these objectives. The Commission requested Governments to pursue a policy of information, prevention and rehabilitation of women victims of the exploitation of prostitution and to take the appropriate economic and social measures deemed necessary to that effect. In its resolution 1991/58, the Commission recommended that these concerns be fully considered by the Working Groups at its sixteenth session, where the main theme of work will be the prevention of the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others.

20. By its resolutions 1989/74 and 1990/46, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the request of the Commission on Human Rights to the Secretary-General to report on the steps taken by Member States, United Nations organizations and other intergovernmental organizations to implement the recommendations in Council resolution 1983/30, and on the comments received, to the Council at its first regular session of 1990 and 1991. The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1990/63 and 1991/58, requested the Secretary-General to make this report available to the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. The Working Group will therefore have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/1990/33 and E/1991/...) on the implementation of Council resolution 1983/30.

5. Review of developments in other fields of contemporary forms of slavery

21. By its resolution 13 (XXIII) of 21 March 1967, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Sub-Commission to undertake regular consideration of the question of slavery in all its forms, including the slavery-like practices of apartheid and colonialism.

22. In its resolution 7 (XXVI) of 19 September 1973, the Sub-Commission recommended that it should be authorized to appoint a group of five from among its membership to meet prior to each session of the Sub-Commission to review developments in the field of slavery and the slave trade in all their practices and manifestations, and to consider and examine any information from credible sources on the subject with a view to recommending remedial action. This recommendation was endorsed by the Commission on Human Rights and by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 16 (LVI) of 17 May 1974, which contains the mandate of the Working Group. The Working Group held its first session in 1975 and has since held fifteen sessions.

23. In its resolution 1695 (LII) of 2 June 1972, the Economic and Social Council invited the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to cooperate, within the limits established by its constitution and in accordance with the special arrangement between the United Nations and that organization, approved by the Council in its resolution 1579 (L) of 20 May 1971, with the United Nations in its efforts to eliminate slavery, the slave trade, and institutions and practices similar to slavery, and in particular to forward to the Secretary-General annually any information at its disposal with regard to the international traffic in persons, including reports on the subject received from its national central bureaux.

24. In its resolution 1991/58, the Commission on Human Rights recommended that the General Assembly establish a voluntary fund on contemporary forms of slavery and requested the Economic and Social Council to take further action on this matter.

25. By its resolution 1991/58, the Commission on Human Rights invited intergovernmental organizations, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations University, the International Criminal Police Organization and non-governmental organizations concerned to continue to supply relevant information to the Working Group.

26. At its sixteenth session, the Working Group will have before it:

(a) Information submitted by Governments, United Nations organs, specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1991/5);

(b) Information submitted by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1991/7);

(c) Information received from non-governmental organizations (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.2/1991/6).

27. By its resolution 1990/30, the Sub-Commission requested the Working Group to study the possibility of preparing guiding principles to combat the various contemporary forms of slavery, endeavouring to identify the spheres in which such guiding principles could be applied. By the same resolution, the Sub-Commission recommended that the Human Rights Committee, when it examines the periodic reports of States parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, give increased attention to the implementation of the provisions of articles 8 and 24 of the Covenant.

(a) Slavery and the slave trade

28. The General Assembly, by its resolution 228 (III) of 13 May 1949, requested the Economic and Social Council to study the question of slavery. Since that time, a number of reports and studies on the subject have been prepared, including surveys on slavery prepared by the Ad Hoc Committee on Slavery (E/1988) and by the Secretary-General (E/2540 and Add.1-4), reports by Mr. Hans Engen (E/2673 and Add.1-6), by Mr. Mohamed Awad (E/4168/Rev.1 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/322) and by Mr. Benjamin Whitaker (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1982/20/Rev.1).

29. In its resolution 1982/20, the Commission on Human Rights decided, pursuant to an invitation by the Government of Mauritania, to authorize the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to send a delegation not exceeding two persons, to be appointed by the Chairman of the Sub-Commission in consultation with the Government of Mauritania, to visit Mauritania in order to study the situation and ascertain the country's needs. The reports of Mr. Bossuyt, who was thus appointed to visit Mauritania, are contained in documents E/CN.4/Sub.2/1984/23, E/CN.4/Sub.2/1985/26 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/1987/27.

(b) Sale of children

30. In its resolution 1982/15, the Sub-Commission, having examined a relevant recommendation of the Working Group on Slavery, considered that a report on the causes and implications of the sale of children, including commercially motivated (and especially transnational) adoptions, should be prepared. By its resolution 1983/30 of 26 May 1983, the Economic and Social Council requested the Centre for Human Rights to prepare, in liaison with the United Nations agencies and organs concerned and with the competent non-governmental organizations, a study on the sale of children and to submit it as soon as possible to the Sub-Commission.

31. Two reports and a note on this subject have been prepared by the Secretary-General and submitted to the Sub-Commission (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1987/28, E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/30 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/38).

32. Upon the recommendation of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery which had considered the question of prevention of sale of children, of child prostitution and of child pornography as the main theme of its fourteenth session in 1989, the Sub-Commission, in its resolution 1989/41, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Sub-Commission, at its forty-second session, a report on the adoption of children for commercial purposes and on the recruitment of children into government and

non-governmental armed forces and their participation in hostilities, taking into account the comments of Governments, and further information received by him.

33. Upon the recommendation of the Sub-Commission (resolution 1989/42), the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1990/68, decided to appoint for a period of one year a Special Rapporteur to consider matters relating to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, including the problem of the adoption of children for commercial purposes. The Commission requested the Special Rapporteur to submit a comprehensive report to the Commission at its forty-seventh session on his activities relating to these matters, including the frequency and extent of such practices, as well as his conclusions and recommendations.

34. By its resolution 1989/43, the Sub-Commission endorsed the draft programme of action for prevention of sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography prepared by its Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, the text of which is found in the report of the Working Group on its fourteenth session (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/39). Upon the recommendation of the Sub-Commission, the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1990/67, decided to transmit to Governments, specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations as well as non-governmental organizations, the draft programme of action for their comments and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its forty-seventh session an analytical summary of the responses received.

35. The Sub-Commission, in its resolution 1990/30, welcomed the appointment of Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn as Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights for a term of two years, to consider matters relating to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, including the problem of the adoption of children for commercial purposes, and invited the Rapporteur to examine ways and means of cooperating with the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and to seek the possibility of conducting his consultations with the Centre for Human Rights during the sixteenth session of the Working Group.

36. By its resolution 1991/53, the Commission on Human Rights welcomed the preliminary assessment by the Special Rapporteur of his task as contained in his report to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1991/51) and requested the Special Rapporteur to continue to carry out his work in the light of the mandate as enunciated in resolution 1990/68, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations in his report, and to report on his activities to the Commission at its forty-eighth session.

37. By its resolution 1991/54, the Commission took note of the comments by Governments, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations received by the Secretary-General on the draft programme of action for prevention of sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (E/CN.4/1991/50 and Add.1) and decided to refer the draft programme of action for prevention of sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to the Sub-Commission so that it might make the necessary amendments in the light of the opinion of States, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations interested in the matter. The Commission requested the Sub-Commission, in its reformulation of the programme of action, fully to reflect the 10 points of the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit for Children. The

Sub-Commission was also requested to give the highest priority to the reformulation of the programme of action so that it might be adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-eighth session. The Commission requested the Special Rapporteur, on the basis of his experience, to consider the possibility of submitting his comments and suggestions to the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, if possible, by attending its meetings.

(c) Child prostitution and child pornography

38. Upon the recommendation of the Sub-Commission (resolution 1985/23), the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1986/34, recommended that special attention should be devoted to the problem of child prostitution in all its forms.

39. By its resolution 1988/42, the Commission on Human Rights invited the Sub-Commission and its Working Group to draw up a plan of action on its future work regarding the elimination of contemporary forms of slavery, including the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others, and paying particular attention to the prevention of child prostitution and child pornography.

40. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1988/34, endorsed the recommendations of the Sub-Commission (resolution 1987/32) and the Commission on Human Rights (resolution 1988/42) and invited all Member States to draw up a special programme for the prevention of child prostitution, the suppression of its exploitation and the social rehabilitation of its victims.

41. The Sub-Commission, in its resolution 1988/31, emphasized the importance of informing and educating children on the dangers of child prostitution and child pornography and appealed to relevant international institutions to promote this sort of information and education. On the recommendation of the Sub-Commission, the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1989/35, urged Member States to enact legislation, where they have not yet done so, making it a crime to produce, distribute or possess pornographic material involving children.

42. For action taken on this subject by the Sub-Commission at its forty-second session in 1990 and by the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-seventh session in 1991, see paragraphs 35, 36 and 37 above.

(d) Eradication of the exploitation of child labour and of debt bondage

43. The Sub-Commission, in its resolution 6 B (XXXI) of 13 September 1978, decided to put the subject of the exploitation of child labour on the agenda of its thirty-second session in 1979, the International Year of the Child. In the same resolution, the Sub-Commission requested the Secretary-General to cooperate with the United Nations agencies concerned with the question of the exploitation of child labour through the exchange of information, the preparation of joint studies and similar activities. In its resolution 7 B (XXXII) of 5 September 1979, the Sub-Commission decided to review the question of the exploitation of child labour annually.

44. Upon the recommendation of the Sub-Commission, the Commission on Human Rights, by its resolution 17 (XXXVI) of 29 February 1980, recommended to the Economic and Social Council that it authorize the Sub-Commission to

entrust Mr. Abdelwahab Bouhdiba as Special Rapporteur with the preparation of a report on the exploitation of child labour. The Council endorsed this recommendation by its decision 1980/125.

45. Having received the study prepared by Mr. A. Bouhdiba on the exploitation of child labour (E/CN.4/Sub.2/479/Rev.1), the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1982/21, invited the Sub-Commission to present to the Council, through the Commission, a concrete programme of action to combat violations of human rights through the exploitation of child labour. The note by the Special Rapporteur setting out his proposed programme of action (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1982/29) had been received by the Sub-Commission at its thirty-fifth session and submitted to the Commission on Human Rights for its consideration.

46. By its resolution 1984/28, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the recommendation of the Commission on Human Rights (resolution 1984/35) to organize, in close cooperation with the International Labour Office, a seminar on ways and means of achieving the elimination of the exploitation of child labour in all parts of the world, within the framework of the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights. The report of the seminar which was held in Geneva from 28 October to 8 November 1985, is contained in document ST/HR/SER.A/18.

47. On the recommendation of the Sub-Commission, the Commission, in its resolution 1986/34, recommended that in all societies appropriate employment legislation be adopted, education facilities be made available at the place of work or elsewhere, and a legal minimum age and minimum wage for children be introduced, and that all competent national authorities should ensure that no children under the minimum age established by law are employed, either directly or through local subcontractors. The Commission further recommended that all competent United Nations agencies, development banks and intergovernmental bodies involved in development projects should encourage policies and measures to protect the human rights of children against abusive labour.

48. The Sub-Commission, in its resolution 1988/31, recommended that the United Nations agencies dedicated to child welfare, particularly the United Nations Children's Fund and the International Labour Organisation, study the problem of child labour with a view to assisting those countries in which it exists to eradicate it. It further recommended that all competent United Nations agencies, development banks and intergovernmental bodies involved in development projects ensure that no child be employed either directly or through local subcontractors.

49. The Sub-Commission, in its resolution 1990/30, requested the Commission on Human Rights to authorize it to consider the possibility of appointing a special rapporteur to update Mr. A. Bouhdiba's report on the exploitation of child labour and extend that study to the problem of debt bondage. At its forty-seventh session, the Commission on Human Rights took no action in this regard. Also in resolution 1990/30, the Sub-Commission recommended that the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, when it examines the periodic reports of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, give particular attention to the implementation of articles 10, 12 and 13 of the Covenant, with a view to improving the situation of children and eliminating the contemporary forms of slavery affecting

children and the exploitation of child labour. The Sub-Commission also recommended that the International Labour Organisation supervisory bodies and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations Committee on Conventions and Recommendations give particular attention in their work to the implementation of provisions and standards designed to ensure protection of children and other persons exposed to contemporary forms of slavery, such as the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the exploitation of child labour, bonded labour and the traffic in persons.

50. By its resolution 1991/55, entitled "Programme of action for the elimination of the exploitation of child labour", the Commission on Human Rights endorsed the views expressed by the Sub-Commission on the need to adopt a concerted programme of action to combat these practices and decided to transmit the draft programme of action for their comments to Governments, the specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations. The Secretary-General was requested to submit a summary of the replies received to the Commission at its forty-eighth session.

51. The Sub-Commission, in its resolution 6 B (XXXI) of 13 September 1978, requested the Secretary-General to undertake, together with the specialized agency concerned, an in-depth, worldwide study of debt bondage, taking into account all the relevant economic, social and legal aspects and the interconnections with other slavery-like practices, and for this purpose to make use of any information from reliable sources made available to him.

52. By its resolution 8 (XXXIII) of 10 September 1980, the Sub-Commission invited the Secretariat to give priority to the study of debt bondage requested in Sub-Commission resolution 6 B (XXXI). It requested the Secretariat to examine the possibility of organizing a round-table or symposium on debt bondage, with the participation of experts, the specialized agencies and all concerned parts of the United Nations system, as part of its advisory services programme, in order that the problem may be studied in depth.

53. By its resolution 1982/15, the Sub-Commission urged that the study on debt bondage called for by the Sub-Commission in its resolutions 6 B (XXXI) of 13 September 1978 and 8 (XXXIII) of 10 September 1980 should be undertaken without further delay and that the author should be requested to recommend the steps necessary for total reform within a realistic, but limited, period of time.

54. The Commission on Human Rights, by its resolution 1985/25, requested the Sub-Commission to consider undertaking, at the appropriate time, the study on debt bondage, as recommended on previous occasions. In its resolution 1986/34, the Commission on Human Rights considered that in the light of the work of the Sub-Commission and its Working Group on Slavery, several issues including debt bondage had not received sufficient attention.

55. The Sub-Commission, in its resolution 1988/31, recommended that all competent United Nations agencies, development banks and intergovernmental bodies involved in development projects ensure that their projects do not perpetuate or involve bonded labour, and that they contribute to its elimination. The Sub-Commission further recommended that Member States, where

the phenomenon of bonded labour exists, be urged to take effective means, especially at the implementation level, to curtail bonded labour, for example:

(a) By seeking and encouraging the involvement of non-governmental organizations;

(b) By effective dissemination of national legislation on labour rights and on the prohibition of bonded labour particularly directed towards victims of bonded labour;

(c) By setting up vigilance committees under the law;

(d) By invoking to the fullest extent the constraining power of the law against the violators.

56. In its resolution 1990/30, the Sub-Commission invited the Secretary-General to recommend to the International Labour Organisation to consider the possibility of holding a seminar or workshop on debt bondage, in relation to and coordination with other organizations and agencies of the United Nations system.

(e) Slavery-like practices of apartheid and colonialism

57. By its resolution 6 B (XXXI) of 13 September 1978, the Sub-Commission requested the Secretary-General to carry out, as a matter of priority, a study of apartheid and colonialism as collective forms of slavery.

58. At its thirty-third session, the Sub-Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Apartheid as a collective form of slavery" (E/CN.4/Sub.2/449). In its resolution 8 (XXXIII) of 10 September 1980, the Sub-Commission strongly expressed its conviction that military, economic and other forms of collaboration with South Africa contribute to perpetuation of the slavery-like practice of apartheid, and expressed its support for wide and effective sanctions against the apartheid régime.

59. The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolutions 1982/20 and 1984/40, recognized that apartheid is a slavery-like practice and endorsed the call for mandatory economic sanctions against South Africa, and appealed to States Members of the Security Council to support proposals to this effect.

(f) Child soldiers

60. In its resolution 1990/30, the Sub-Commission expressed its deep concern at the fact that in many regions of the world children were still taking part in hostilities and were being recruited into the armed forces, and that certain Governments and non-governmental entities encouraged and sometimes compelled children to take part in military training and participate in hostilities. The Sub-Commission welcomed the decision of the Working Group to place this question on the agenda for its sixteenth session and invited the Working Group to make recommendations.

6. Follow-up of recommendations adopted at previous sessions

61. On the recommendation of the Working Group, the Sub-Commission, in its resolution 1987/32, requested the Secretary-General to prepare a survey of all

recommendations made by the Working Group since its inception. At its fortieth session, the Sub-Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General containing such a survey (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1988/29).

62. By its resolution 1988/34, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the recommendation made by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1988/42 that the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities consider appointing a special rapporteur to review the implementation of the recommendations made and the appropriate measures taken by United Nations organs and specialized agencies, other international organizations and Member States and to submit recommendations with a view to achieving further progress in the prevention and suppression of slavery-like practices, the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others, as well as other contemporary forms of slavery.

63. The Chairman of the fifteenth session of the Working Group reviewed the recommendations adopted at the previous session of the Working Group as contained in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/1989/39 (see paras. 94 to 104 of the report of the Working Group on its fifteenth session, E/CN.4/Sub.2/1990/44).

7. Adoption of the report of the Working Group to the Sub-Commission

64. Under rule 37 of the rules of procedure, the Working Group is to report to the Sub-Commission on the work of its session.